Secrt. II-45—21.202—6-2-23.

DEVELOPMENT

(192 3) Department.

Miscellaneous SERIES.

G.O. No. 1105

DATED 3-8-1923

[Despatch Abstract.]

Factories - Labour Commissioner Inspection notes on the South Kanara District - Recorded.

C.F. 29—24,264 4-4-21.

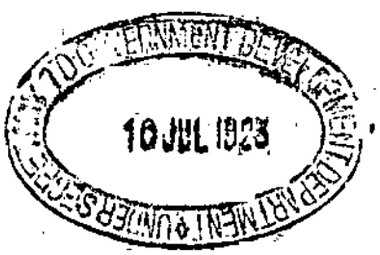
Labour DEPARTMENT.

Received ..... 192 . *Registered* ..... 192 .

D/b/L C
C0/7/L3

Subject.

Inspection Report - South Kanara District.



ENCLOSURES.
No. .....
.....
Spare copies .....

D. C. No. 1340/23

Station Madras *Dated the* 4th July 1923

From (Name) G.F. Paddison, Esqr., M.A., C.S.I., I.C.S.,

(Designation) Commissioner of Labour.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Development Department.
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir

I have the honour to forward herewith One copy of my inspection notes on South Kanara District.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

7.7.23

PDR/-

for Commissioner of Labour

2

LABOUR COMMISSIONER'S INSPECTION NOTES.

Monday the 14*th May* 1923.—Arrived Kasaragod. In the evening I inspected a Holeya Settlement near the Travellers' Bungalow. The soil is rocky and water has to be fetched from a considerable distance. Several substantial houses have been built and trees and vegetables planted. The people work in the town and get about six annas a day. Most of them are indebted though not very deeply. I met a young man on a visit from the east of the district who had just returned from a coffee plantation where he earned about six annas a day. He received a considerable advance from the maistri and still owed a certain amount. On his return he was expected to pay a certain amount as Barabadde to the landlord (to whom he "belonged"). Some of the children here are said to go to a school, but the school was not open owing to the vacation. This experiment is distinctly a success and Rs. 300 will be sanctioned for a well which is what they chiefly need.

2 *Tuesday the* 15*th May* 1923.—Visited Chengal and Mattatodu where the Holeyas were collected. They had no special request to make except that they wanted land for cultivation. They wanted land however near their own houses and also wanted a well for each group of houses, if not for each plot of land. The real difficulty in satisfying this request of theirs is that the people live so far apart from each other that wells if dug even for each group of houses would be too expensive if it was spread over the district as a whole. The women of the Holeyas in these parts do not wear anything above the waist whereas round Mangalore they all are more conventionally clad. The houses I visited near the paddy flat were substantial mud buildings, thatched with the Mulla Huli, an exceptionally fine thatching grass which is grown for hay also. They have no wooden doors, the tradition of the place being against a Holeya having a wooden door. Each group of houses has its own devil stone where dancing and drinking takes place on certain occasions. I was much struck here by the picottas: Two Moplah ladies with Italian blue head dresses walking up a certain number of steps and then jumping off suspended from straw ropes with their legs dangling in the air appeared extremely graceful and picturesque. In these two villages there are no schools and no regular water-supply for the Holeyas, nor have any of them land of their own except in one case, and even here the Holeya admitted that the rent was paid for him by his master which obviously meant that the land really belonged to the master.

In the evening I visited another settlement close to Kasaragod similar to that close to the Travellers' Bungalow, and it was equally successful. They have established their own Bhuthas (devils), a club, a brass tridant and a curved sword, the latter being especially worshipped on wedding days. They possess several jack trees, the jacks being carefully encased in baskets on the trees either to avoid an evil eye or to prevent the birds getting at them. The headman possesses a fine house kept scrupulously clean with a picture of a Peruvian convert to Christianity on the wall, though the owner is not a Christian himself, and a wooden spittoon. He was anxious at first that I should not enter his house as it contained a devil. I told him that I was not afraid of devils but he explained that his anxiety was not on my behalf but was aroused by the fear that the devil might be offended. The men get wages about six annas a day. The children attend school, there is a good well, and all that these people say they want is more land—there is a little bit of land near the casuarina tope which perhaps may be given to them and a road, the latter is, I think, an extravagant request for so small a settlement.

Later in the evening I visited a large settlement about two miles out from Kasaragod where a number of people of all castes have been provided with houses and lands. Here, for some reason or other, the Holeyas have not made good quite as well as in the gardens nearer the town, nor do their plots as a rule show the same improvements as those of other castes. Still some of them have obviously done well.

3 *Wednesday the* 16*th May* 1923.—In the morning I inspected a cocoanut oil factory near the Railway Station. The rules were not hung up, the register under section 35 was not written up, nor were the previous orders of the Inspector available. I understand a latrine will shortly be built.

affixing of abstract of factories Act and Rules under Section 36

† The Register of workers' under Section 35 — vide Instruction 71 on page 7 of Instruction Book (K)

On the way to Mangalore I got out of the train at Manjeshwar and visited a colony under Father Camissa at Pavoor. I also discussed the question of the Depressed Classes with the President of the Taluk Board, Mr. Venkateshwara Bhat, who has obtained a considerable area of land for the benefit of the Depressed Classes. He has started making a road to the settlement, but otherwise so far no progress has been made. The settlement at Pavoor has been going on for some years now, and casuarinas, cocoanuts, and other trees are coming on well. A church is nearing completion. A tannery has been started to give instruction to the members of the settlement. Father Camissa however frankly admits that he is rather in difficulties now as all these improvements, especially those involving the growing of trees, mean the locking up of a considerable amount of capital. When the settlement was at first started apparently there was considerable flow of such capital from the alms of the Faithful in Italy. First the war and then the fall in the exchange had practically dried up this fertile source and the members of the settlement now have to go outside to earn their living and so the process of improvement of the land is considerably hampered. The obvious remedy would be a loan from the Co-operative Society, but the people are so backward that it is rather doubtful whether they would spend the money they receive on the land or in the toddy shop.

Thursday the 17th May 1923—*Mangalore.*—Inspected a village about 10 miles out on the Mercara Road. The Holeyas here go regularly to the hills and return for a month or two in May. They have to pay tribute to their landlords in the shape of fruits from their trees, a sort of offering of the first fruits. Their wages on the hills and here are about the same six annas, but there they can get regular work every day which they do not get in the plains except on special seasons. Their houses are kept very neat and tidy with a rather dark inner room in which they sleep in wet weather and a sort of inner verandah on which they can sleep in the dry weather. Some of them have a kind of platform outside on which they and their friends can sit in comfort and talk. Here as elsewhere in the rural parts, the difficulty of tackling the question of improving the condition of the Holeyas is the scattered nature of their own huts. I came in a hired motor car which broke down eight miles out, a similar misadventure I understand befell the Registrar of Co-operative Societies on a recent visit so that it is safer to travel by bus or by the homely jutka.

On my return I visited two coffee factories to see for myself the difficulties of applying the new Act to these factories. A coffee factory consists of a drying ground where coffee is placed on arrival, two decorticating machines inside, one for parchment coffee and one for cherry. From there the coffee is removed to the garbling sheds where women and children pick out the good beans from the bad. There are three main difficulties: firstly, except for the persons actually working the machinery, all labour is provided by outside contractors so that there is a great difficulty in drawing up the register under section 35. Secondly, women garblers come when they like and go when they like, they receive a task, as it is called, from the machine room and on completion of that may take another task if they like or if they have anything to do outside, may go home. It is obviously extremely difficult to fix hours of work for labour of this kind. Thirdly, women bring their children of all ages with them. They sit in an open shed far from the machinery near which they never go, the task being brought to them by men coolies. Tiny children play about on the floor, while others do something more or less to assist their mothers in the garbling work. These children do not get any pay themselves but to some extent increase their mothers' earnings, and they are undoubtedly employees of the factories under the new Act. On the other hand, they are probably better off here than they would be if left at home even if their mothers are ready so to leave them. Lastly it is claimed by the owners of these factories that a different standard of cubic feet of air space should be made for an open shed from one that is closed in walls with a few doors and windows. Coffee factory is a seasonal one lasting, from December to May. Practically all the work is concentrated in a few months as the enclosed figures from three separate firms will show.

In the evening I inspected the work of the Depressed Classes Mission. I saw the school (the children were away for the vacation), the ground selected for the new building, the work shed and the boarding houses. Then I visited the Holeya

and Koraga settlements in the suburbs. The Holeya settlement has made substantial progress. Two wells have to be deepened. Unfortunately, the Public Works Department has made an estimate for deepening the wrong well. The time is so short now that I gave permission to the Secretary to deepen the two wells so long as the amount sanctioned was not exceeded and vouchers were given for the work done. The Koraga settlement is being removed to a new site which seems an eminently suitable one. Greatly to my regret Mr. Ranga Rao who is unwell was not present. But the Servants of India Society have now taken up the work and should be able to carry it on successfully if they get necessary funds. Like nearly all similar societies they find difficulty in raising the necessary subscriptions partly owing to the depression in trade and partly owing to the non-co-operation movement. The case is precisely similar to that of Mr. Ramjee Rao's efforts in Masulipatam. On the whole I consider that in both these cases, in the very exceptional circumstances that rule at present, a substantial grant should be given for a year or two to tide over the present difficulties. When more normal times return, the two societies will have to stand again on their legs with the ordinary support given by Government. But it would be a very unfortunate thing if these two cases practically the only real efforts outside the Presidency Town made to my knowledge by non-Christian agencies for these people—were allowed to fall into ruin owing to temporary financial difficulties. In both the cases sincere and devoted workers are prepared to give all their time and energy to the work if they get the necessary temporary financial support.

Friday the 18*th May* 1923 (Morning).—I inspected the St. Joseph's Industrial School which is run on the lines we hope to run our school at Perambur. The pupils are all Christians, but none of them are Holeyas. If any members of the Depressed Classes are to be introduced, even Christian members, they would require a separate hostel. Boys come at about 13 years of age and are taught painting, modelling in *terra cotta* carpentry, boot and shoe making, iron founding, mechanical work generally, while the girls are taught lace-making, embroidery and laundry work. The boys when they have finished their course generally get work as teachers outside or remain on in these institutions. The boys are paid a little at first and their pay gradually increases until they get full adult wages. This money is not given to them, but the surplus after their food is paid for is set aside so that at the end of their school career they have a small investment on which to start life. A motor repairing shed is to be opened shortly.

From there I visited the Commonwealth (old "Basel Mission") Tile Works. There are no children employed, and the rules for sanitation, ventilation and hours of work have been properly attended to. The register under section 35, however, has not yet been prepared.

In the afternoon I saw a deputation of coffee curers in regard to the Factory Act. Fortunately the season is now over so that before December we should be able to come to some workable arrangement.

Saturday the 19*th May* 1923—*Mudabidri.*—I visited a settlement of Holeyas on the Mudabidri road. Some of them had recently come back from the coffee estates on the Ghauts. Most of them were still indebted to some extent to the maistries. Some of them were suffering from malaria. They earned six annas a day on the Ghauts which is the same they get in Mudabidri. It is said that here and in other places the Holeyas are paid less than the caste coolies for doing the same work. They have built themselves quite decent houses but have not done so much as in other settlements in the way of improving their plots of land probably because of their absence on the hills. This annual migration of a large number of them to the hills makes the question of schools even more difficult than it is already owing to the scattered nature of their dwellings. Father Corte however who has had much experience of work among these people seems to have made a good start with schools for the Holeyas in a number of villages. He told me that it was absolutely essential to have schools in the kuppam which corresponds to the paracheri of the east coast though of course it is very much smaller. If the schools are held outside the kuppam the Holeya children are so shy and are so much jeered at by the caste people for their insolence in presuming to go in for education that the task of starting a school is quite hopeless. He gets over the difficulty of the smallness of the school by having one master for two little schools in adjacent kuppams. The master holds

school in the mornings in one kuppam and in the evenings in the other. Father Corte's work is entirely among the depressed classes. They have separate churches and separate organizations altogether from those of the old Christians as they are called. The latter speak nothing but Konkani while the depressed classes all speak Tulu. I was surprised to find from the little Tulu I was able to pick up in ten days the remarkable resemblance which it bears to Khond. The exaction of the Barabadde by the landlords is at present concealed to some extent by making out that it is a contribution towards religious services. A large Nemam is held about once a year when dancing and feasting are carried on for several days. I met some Holeyas walking into Mangalore some ten miles away from their homes in order to get the right sort of cakes for the feast that was shortly to take place. They expected to spend about Rs. 50 on this feast which must take away a very large portion of their earnings. I was told by the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies of a remarkable instance of the subservience of the Holeya to his landlord. A co-operative society had been started for house-building and Rs. 25 was advanced to a Holeya in the presence of his landlord as a loan. The Holeya looked at the money not knowing what to do with it and then took it over to his landlord and asked him to take it. On our way back from inspecting Holeya houses in Mudabidri we met some other Holeyas returning from the ghauts. The Holeyas immediately got into the gutter so that they might not defile the road on which a Brahman official and myself were walking.

The most remarkable use to which the depressed classes are put in these parts is as scape-goats. When a Brahman falls very seriously ill, a Koraga and his wife are called in and mantrams are said which transfer the Brahman's sins to the Koragas, whereupon it is hoped that the Brahman will recover.

Sunday the 20th May 1923.—I visited Karkal in the morning and in the evening saw another settlement of Holeyas near Mudabidri. Here I found a substantial house belonging to a Holeya who was evidently much more emancipated than any I have yet seen. He was said to possess a considerable sum of money, had a nice garden and house and was engaged in digging a well at his own expense.

In the afternoon I had an interview with the president of the taluk board and member of the Legislative Council, Mr. Sadasiva Bhat. He said that a Holeya Protestant Mission school used to exist in Mudabidri. When the Basel missionaries were repatriated it was still kept on by Hindus for some time but has now ceased to exist as there was no Government grant. He was anxious that the school should be restarted. He dwelt at considerable length on the hardships resulting from the Breach of Contract Act XIII of 1859. He stated that with very few exceptions the coolies when they got to the estates were paid regularly, well housed and well treated. The difficulty was with the maistri who owing to the illiteracy of the Holeyas is able to put down whatever he likes as the amount advanced by him on starting for the estates. The result is that the Holeya generally owes something at the end of the season and can thus be compelled to return in the following year. Certainly I was surprised to find such evidences of wealth in the house of one of the mastries which I visited. He said that the Act was liable to abuse from the fact that a warrant might be issued on the Nilgiris or in Mercara and that the Holeya even if he owed no money would be obliged to go up the hills to defend the suit and once there had to stay and work. I discussed the matter with some planters from Mysore who chanced to stop the night in Mudabidri They said that without the Breach of Contract Act they would be quite unable to recruit their labour. It seems to me that the outlet to the hills for the Holeyas is certainly on the whole to their advantage. On the other hand, there are probably abuses and if it were possible to supersede the maistries, to assist them with advances by a co-operative society who would see that not more was recovered than had been advanced would be a very great gain. Whether a scheme of this sort would be practicable is another matter. Something has been done in this way with the Kallars in Madura and it might possibly be tried here, but the Holeyas are so backward that it would require very close supervision.

Monday the 21st May 1923.—I visited a village about five miles from Mudabidri. The condition of the Holeyas seems to be practically the same here as in the other villages that I visited.

6

In the evening we saw a devil dance by the Paravas. Three men dressed in a most elaborate paraphernalia danced with very great vigour and a certain amount of grace. The leader who was supposed to be possessed by the devil was ready to answer questions in the devil's name, but he did not give out any interesting oracles as it takes a longer time than we were able to give them to be thoroughly worked up to active possession.

This concluded my brief visit to South Kanara. The problem here is extraordinarily difficult but it is worth while making a start. Kasaragod which the proposed Labour Officer knows well will be the first taluk in which work will be begun. The Labour Officer will devote himself to starting small schools in kuppams, arranging for water-supply, the best form of which would as a rule be, I think, quite a small well in or close to the paddy flat at the foot of the kuppam which should of course be fenced so as to exclude animals. He should endeavour to work out some scheme of co-operative societies in conjunction with the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies who takes a very great interest in the work. He should also assist the various land settlements already started and see to the starting of others wherever possible.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR,
VICTORIA BUILDINGS, EGMORE, MADRAS,
23*rd June* 1923.

G. F. PADDISON,
Commissioner of Labour.

(1)

Statement of parchment, cherry, etc., received—season 1922–23.

Quantity received in the month of	Parchment bushels.	Cherry, etc., bushels.	Total bushels.
December 1922	212½	...	212½
January 1923	17,486	457	17,943
February ,, ...	32,004	5,717⅝	37,721⅝
March ,, ...	19,184	6,345¾	25,529¾
April ,, ...	2,093	8,462¾	10,558¾
Up to 17th May 1923	97	4,191⅓	4,288⅓
Total ...	71,079½	25,174⅛	96,254⅛

(2)

Statement of coffee received.

Month.	Parchment.			Cherry.			Total.		
	Bushels.	Tons.	Cwt.	Bushels.	Tons.	Cwt.	Bushels.	Tons.	Cwt.
October and November	..	..	..	3,785	29	2	3,786	29	2
December	1,022	11	7	737	5	13	1,759	17	..
January	25,362	282	..	3,646	27	5	28,008	309	5
February	53,765	597	1	5,817	46	..	59,582	642	1
March	23,443	260	9	13,481	103	14	36,924	364	3
April	6,234	69	5	13,175	101	6	19,409	170	5
May 15th	68		15	2,846	22	..	2,914	22	15

(3)

Coffee received during season 1922–23.

Month.	Parchment approximate.	Cherry, etc., approximate.	Total.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
December 1922	·4	½	4½
January 1923	215	10½	225½
February ,, ...	355	70	425
March ,, ...	123	90	213
April ,, ...	6	36	42
May ,, ...	...	12	12
Total ...	703	219	922 For curing.
			29 For local sale.
			951

Dev. Dept.

ors. 1672

Subject. Inspection Report by the Labour Commissioner on South Kanara District.

From the Commr of Labour D.e. No. 1340/23 dated 4. 7. 23

To A.S
U.S.

A Copy of the Labour Commr's inspection notes on South Kanara district is forwarded submitted for perusal.

2 The Labour Commr usually submits his inspection notes, if any, in connection with Criminal Settlement measures for the uplift of depressed classes etc... to the Law (Cal) Dept, which deals with these subjects. During his recent inspection visit to the South Kanara District he has availed himself of the opportunity to visit the Coffee works in the west Coast, as difficulties in the application of the revised Factory Act to Coffee factories were represented to him by west coast Coffee Companies especially by Messrs Peirce Leslie & Co, Calicut in criticism of the Draft Factory Rules — vide their letter at flag (1)

A separate copy was sent to Law (Cal) separately by the Commr.

para 3, sub-para 1 of para 4, sub-para 3 of para 5.

Incidentally he refers to a certain para 5 (Land Tile works) Industrial School which he then visited. Suggestions are also put forward by him as to developing Co-operative para 3 & 4 Scheme among the hill tribes. These subjects being dealt with in this Dept, he has submitted a copy of his inspection note separately here.

3 No action seems called for After perusal the notes may be recorded. Draft also a draft order as it submitted.

Director of Industries and Commerce.

D.R.
13.7.23.

K at p 4 C.F: Coffee-factories: In a communication received two or three days back on the subject of "exemptions" under the Factories Act the Labour Commissioner has promised a separate report about the Coffee factories. Action may be taken on receipt of that report.

K
23/7/23

CR
13.7.23

M at p 5 ante about starting a Co-op. Society for the Holdigars in S. Kanara dt, we may convey a copy of the para to Registrar of Co-op. Societies for such action as he deems possible

K
23/7/23

S/Asst
14-7-23

C4 and K2 Shall see

I agree
Rejected
25/7/23.

C4
K2

K.
23/7/23

RSR
25/7/23

Please check up cuttings
K
30-7-23

Returned 30-7-23

Where cir C4 & M2 24/7

cired 24-7-23
Box No D 34

cired 26-7-23
Box No D 34

Secrt. II-10 (a)—48,962—2-2-23. (6)

Development DEPARTMENT.

	Date.
When received for Fair-copying,	2/8
When copied	4/8
When examined	
When signed	
When despatched	

Factories - Labour Commissioner's Inspection notes on the South Kanara District - Recorded

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ....., dated 192

" " " " ..... " 192

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 6721, From the Commr of Labour Dc No. 1340/23, dated 4.7 1923.

" " " " ..... " ..... 192.

" " " " ..... " ..... 192.

ORDER.

No. 1105, dated 3/8/23. 192.

Recorded

2 An Extract from the Labour Commr's inspection notes on the South Kanara district regarding the possibility of formation of Co. operative Societies to assist the Holeyas in Karkal is communicated to the Registrar of Co operative Societies for such action as may be considered necessary

DESPATCHED
4 AUG 1923

D.C.
1.8.23.

To

The Commr of Labour

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Extract with enclosure. Para 2 on page 5 cte.)

C.D.
2.8.23